

# Word Sleuth

## What to Do

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of each word written in bold type in the sentences below. Underline the clues you used to make your predictions.
- Circle the best meaning in the coloured strip below each sentence. The first one is done for you.

## What You Need

- dry-erase marker
- pencil and paper
- dictionary

1. He likes **viburnum**, especially when its little white flowers begin to bloom.

**viburnum** means:      violet colour      grass      brightness      shrub

2. She is extremely **bumptious**. She thinks more highly of herself than anyone I know.

**bumptious** means:      friendly      conceited      quiet      shy

3. They found a Roman **denarius** in his coin collection. It was round and silver and about the size of a Canadian penny.

**denarius** means:      Canadian coin      ancient Roman coin      pop bottle lid      scrap metal

4. The **kestrel** (also known as a sparrow hawk) flew overhead, patiently waiting to attack its prey.

**kestrel** means:      falcon      airplane      helicopter      butterfly

## Try It!

Look up the definition of the words written in bold type in a dictionary. Were your predictions correct? What else did you learn about the meaning of the words?

# Word Sleuth #2

## What to Do

- Read the sentences below. Use context clues to predict the meaning of each word written in bold type.
- Write what you think the word means and explain the clues that helped you make your prediction. The first one is done for you.

## What You Need

- dry-erase marker
- pencil and paper
- dictionary



1. The pianist has very **deft** fingers. Her ability to play so many notes and chords so quickly and so beautifully is a very special gift.

**Deft** might mean fast or skillful. The clues are that she plays  
 “so many” notes “quickly” and “beautifully.”



2. He used to be so **vociferous**, but now he hardly speaks.

3. They are experts in **etymology**, or the study of words. Ask them to tell you the history behind any word, and they probably can.

4. First Nations peoples taught European settlers how to build and use a **weir** (a fence of sticks that crosses a river) to catch fish.

## Try It!

Look through a dictionary for a word that is new to you. Write one or two sentences that include that word, as well as some context clues. Ask a partner to read your sentences and predict the meaning of your word.